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DELEGATES TO THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP

Washington, D. C., June 17 - 23, 1937

OKLAHOMA

<u>Delegate</u>	<u>County</u>
Wilma Jane Albrecht.	Oklahoma
Basil Jones.	Okfuskee
Clark King	Rogers
Dorris Sullivan.	Greer

Miss Albrecht writes:

"I have been in 4-H club work for 8 years. I joined when I was 10 years old, and have taken part in nearly all of the county 4-H club activities ever since.

"I have made a dress and styled in it at the county appropriate contest six times. The first year I placed third on my dress; the second time I placed second; the third year I won first on a cotton matelasse. That year I won the prize offered to the winner of the girls under 16 years of age. The fourth time I styled I placed third. The next year was the first time that I was old enough to compete for an out-of-State trip; so I styled in a tailored street costume instead of the usual cotton school dress. I began planning my outfit at a sewing school conducted by our home demonstration agent. Besides making a dress I made a matching cape, hat, and purse. I was champion of the county contest in June, and also of the State appropriate-dress contest at the State 4-H Club Round-up in July. The next year I also competed in the county appropriate-dress contest, placing first.

"Through all my 8 years of club work I have always had a complete exhibit of clothing, home improvement, canning, and baking. I won second prize on a white uniform and cap at the State fair in 1933, and in 1934 my linen supper cloth and four napkins were awarded the blue ribbon at all three fairs. The cost of the supper cloth and napkins was \$3.25. My wool dress won first at the three fairs. My dresser set placed third at the State fair. On my silk dress for my seventh year exhibit, I again placed first at the district and county fairs. It won second at the State fair. My braided rug, which cost less than 65 cents, won three firsts at the fairs.

"In 1935 I entered in window treatment which was a very interesting and profitable project, and the following year I improved my bedroom. My father and I wired it for electricity and made many other improvements.

"Home improvement demonstrations have always been my favorites. In 1934 I entered the county demonstration contest with my team mate, Loine Shinn. We won first on our demonstration showing how to prepare

raw wool for comforts. We placed second in the home-improvement division at the State contest. This was a very helpful demonstration; several months later I prepared some of the wool from my own sheep and made a comfort.

"The following year Mary Blackwell and I tied for third place in the home-improvement division in the State contest. Our demonstration was reseating chairs with binder-twine or Hong Kong grass.

"In 1936 Ina Van Bibber was my team mate when we demonstrated better lighting in a girl's room. I borrowed a light meter from an electric company and through its use was able to measure the light in my home and determine how much was needed for the safety of our eyes. When improving my room that fall I kept the points that I had mentioned in the demonstration in mind, while I lighted my bedroom.

"I have belonged to the poultry club as long as I have been a club member, and I am very interested in this line of work. My mother and I raise our chickens and turkeys on a partnership basis. We have a flock of Buff Orpington chickens and bronze turkeys. Since I joined the 4-H club we have greatly improved our flock, because I buy my hatching eggs from some of the best Orpington flock owners in the State. I am interested in poultry judging and always attend the judging schools. I have been on the county poultry judging team since 1933. At the State fair in 1935 I placed second in the poultry-judging contest.

"In my second year of 4-H club work I decided to try the livestock club. I joined the sheep club because my father had a flock of grade ewes and he told me that he would give me a lamb in the spring. Instead of taking the lamb from his mother to fatten, I penned them both and fed the ewe. This was an entirely new experience to me. It was quite interesting to learn how to block lambs to prepare them for the show ring. Their blocky appearance seemed very strange to me at first, but I soon became accustomed to it. I made enough profit to encourage me to continue this work.

"I used the prize money from my first lamb to buy two registered ewe lambs from a well-known Shropshire breeder. I had observed the preceding fall that the real prize winners were much typier than mine, and I believed that by buying registered lambs my chances would be improved. I was quite right in this belief. They proved to be quite successful in the show ring, and it was with these two ewes that I started my own registered flock.

"In 1933 I again bought two ewe lambs which were fattened and added to my flock.

"My flock continued to increase until in 1935 I had 11 thoroughbred lambs and sheep. In the fall of that year I sold a registered ram, the first I had sold for breeding purposes. The following spring a pack of dogs got into my flock and killed four of my best ewes.

"I bought the lumber and had a small sheep shed built from some of the profits I have made on my sheep. At the present time I have six registered ewes of which I am quite proud.

"In 1934 I joined the beef club. I bought an Aberdeen Angus calf from a prominent breeder in Miami, Okla. I named this calf Dingo which my county agent told me is the French name for Negro. This was quite appropriate, for there was hardly a white hair on him. While I was in Stillwater at 4-H Club Round-up that summer, Dingo stepped on a nail. When I returned, I gave him nearly as much care as if he had been a child. He was such a pet that it was quite hard to sell him, but from his sale at \$.20 a pound, I made a profit of more than \$100.

"In 1936 I again joined the beef club. My assistant county agent, J. R. Spencer, went with me to select my calf. I bought a calf from Capp's Ranch at Tipton, Okla. I called this calf Pee Wee. It was almost an impossible task to get this little 235-pound calf into the trailer when he was first taken from the ranch, but in a few weeks he was quite gentle. When we were ready to load him into the same trailer for the last time before he was to be sold at the Southwestern Livestock Show in Oklahoma City, the 1,000-pound "calf" calmly walked up the plank as if it were an everyday occurrence.

"I have cleared \$136.22 in profits on my livestock."

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Mr. Jones writes:

"The Bearden 4-H Club, of which I am a member, is an active one and has been since its organization in 1929 under the present leadership.

"I have been a member of the Bearden Club for the past 8 years, an officer for 6 years, president for the past 3 years.

"I also served on the County Agricultural Advisory Board last year.

"Since a number of younger members joined our club this year each of our older members was assigned certain boys and is responsible for teaching them things about our club work as: General terms in livestock judging, how to set up a farm level, and assist in giving a demonstration.

"I have been a member of the pig club since 1934. I have fed out 21 barrows during this period. Our club as a group built a weighing crate, and we weighed all the pigs collectively and kept accurate records on the gains and the feed costs. I built two self-feeders and experimented with a number of different rations and different methods of feeding. As a result of these experiments I showed the grand-champion barrow at the Tulsa Four-State Fair in 1936.

"Due to our club's livestock work most of the local feeders now use a protein supplement, also the type of hogs has been improved through our exhibiting work, and at present there are several sows in our community from which suitable barrows may be selected.

"I have fed out one calf during my club work, and have learned much about this work. I exhibited my steer at the fairs in 1936 and at the spring shows in 1937. I won \$34 in prize money on my calf. Also as a result of our work with calves, there have been six purebred bulls purchased in our community since January 1, 1937, at a total cost of over \$900.

"Sheep feeding is the youngest phase of livestock work in our club or county. In 1935 there were 3 lambs fed out in our club. This encouraged others and in the summer of 1936 six other members and I bought 12 lambs to feed collectively. We built a pen and shed at the schoolhouse and took turn about feeding them. This project was helpful in many different ways. It brought us more profit than any of our other livestock projects; it helped us to study the judging of sheep, which was the weak part of our livestock judging team; and it has shown the farmers of our community and county that sheep are profitable. I think the greatest advantage of the project was the educational value.

"The crop projects of our entire club and county have been the most neglected phase of the boys' work. This is largely because of recent climatic conditions. Since we started our livestock work we have not had a good feed crop, in fact it has been almost a complete failure. But experience in buying feed this year has taught us the value of raising feed, and our club set crops as the major project for 1937.

"In 1934 our club members purchased some of the best seed corn that could be purchased. It was adapted to the soil and climatic conditions, and by planting it early I was able to produce 25 bushels per acre, although other farmers' corn crops were almost a complete failure.

"In all my projects I have had a total sales return of \$500.40. Year in and year out I have not made much money, but I have received many dollars worth of educational value.

"I have been judging livestock since 1934. We held various judging schools in our county and our community. As a result of these schools we have learned much about judging livestock."

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Mr. King writes:

"My first year of club work was in 1931, when I enrolled in the horticulture project. I was given part charge of raising the family garden that year.

"The next year my family moved to a larger farm and then I had my own corn, potato, and garden spots. The farm was full of stumps and overgrown with cockleburrs and other weeds, so I had hard work to care for my fields. It was hard for me to keep up my interest in club work, as we had no extension agents or county fair that year and I had to carry on my projects alone. However, I completed my projects and made my exhibits at the Tulsa State Fair.

"The next year I enlarged the number of my projects and it was also Rogers County's good fortune to obtain agents once more. They were Mr. Peterman and Miss Scott. When they organized a club at Foyil it was divided into two parts and I was chosen president of the junior club, and that fall when the clubs united I was elected vice president.

"My chief ambition at this time was to win a State terracing contest, which had been done by my fellow club members, Howard Andrews and June Robins. I studied and worked hard, won the county terracing contest the next year.

"At the State Round-up I placed second in the terracing record contest and agronomy team demonstration. I became intensely interested in my terracing work and studied it thoroughly. I also worked hard on grain judging.

"My work was rewarded, for I was high man in the State terracing contest at the Tulsa State Fair School, as well as second high individual grain judge.

"I started to work on livestock judging the next year and went to a tricounty judging school at Vinita and was high man in the county group.

"At the State contests in Stillwater my team mate and I won the level offered as first prize and another team mate and I placed third in the crops demonstration contest. That fall we won the terracer offered as a prize for the best terracing team at Tulsa.

"In October I was awarded the trip to the American Royal. Soon after returning home I made the trip to the State Farmers' Union convention at Oklahoma City.

"This spring I wrote the demonstration given by the grade boys of my club and coached them; they placed first at the county contest.

"Some of the improved practices that I have learned through my 4-H club work are erosion control, fertilizing, crop rotation, pure and good seed, contour farming, use of legumes, and sodding.

"Of course, I would have read of many of these improved practices in farm papers, but would not have studied and understood them as I do through my 4-H club work.

"Some of the approved practices adopted by my father and neighbors because of club work are terracing, using lime on sour soils, inoculation of legumes, crop rotation, use of pure and better seed, the advisability of planting leguminous pasture mixtures, and not burning timber pasture in the spring."

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Miss Sullivan writes:

"During my 8 years of club work I think first of the practical training that I have received.

"I have always enjoyed sewing and have made almost all of my clothes for several years. I also do the sewing for the other members of the family.

"Canning is work that I really enjoy. I have been doing all our canning for about 3 years. During the last 2 years we have had to buy several bushels of products to can, but it has proved very economical. I have planned the canning budget for the family which makes it possible to have fruits and vegetables the year around.

"In food preparation I have learned the value of the balanced diet and of what it consists. One thing I do is make light bread. My mother has said several times how glad she was to turn the baking over to someone else. Many times an emergency dinner is necessary. I am glad that I can go to the cellar, select a few jars of food, and prepare a well-balanced meal.

"Home improvement has been an important factor in my club training. Before improvement I had an old, large dresser and a clothes curtain in my room. But now I have a sewing unit, wardrobe, clothes closet, and vanity dresser. All these have been made of orange crates, one refrigerator box, and scrap lumber. They are economical, and I made them with very little outside help.

"The health project has meant a great deal to me.

"The health project has helped me to correct some of my physical defects.

"My other projects, including special exhibits, poultry, horticulture, and entomology, have helped me to complete my project record and make my work more interesting.

"Judging work has furnished me with training that is not offered in any other line. It has been valuable in teaching me closer observation, judgment of quality, and individual thinking."